

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An audio apparatus, comprising:

an recognizing logic for recognizing an external connection situation;

an audio volume setting logic for setting an audio volume of audio to be output to a user of the audio apparatus, wherein said audio volume is changed according to the external connection situation recognized by said recognizing logic, wherein at least two different external connection situations are associated with different audio volumes of audio output to the user; and

a built-in speaker for outputting said audio at the audio volume set by said audio volume setting logic.

2. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said recognizing logic recognizes one, or two or more, of power supply source connection situation, network connection situation, external voice output apparatus connection situation, and peripheral apparatus connection situation, as said external connection situation.

3. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said audio volume setting logic sets the audio volume according to one, or a combination of two or more, of power supply source connection situation, network connection situation, external speaker connection situation, and peripheral apparatus connection situation.

4. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said audio volume setting logic increases/decreases or mutes the audio volume controlled by a user according to the external connection situation.

5. (currently amended) An audio volume control method in an audio apparatus, wherein:
storing hypothetical computer apparatus ~~usage~~ external connection situations and audio volumes corresponding to those ~~usage~~ external connection situations ~~are stored~~ in relational fashion;

comparing said hypothetical external connection situations and the actual external connection situation ~~are compared~~ when the audio apparatus is actually used; and

when said actual external connection situation and [a] one of said hypothetical external connection ~~situation~~ situations match, extracting the audio volume from said storage contents according to said matching hypothetical external connection situation ~~is extracted from said storage contents~~ and using the extracted audio volume ~~used~~ as the audio volume for audio output from that audio apparatus.

6. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein, when the actual external connection situation of said audio apparatus changes, said hypothetical external connection situations and the actual external connection situation are compared again, and the audio volume output from that audio apparatus is controlled on the basis of the result.

7. (currently amended) A computer apparatus, comprising:

a built-in speaker incorporated into the computer apparatus;

an audio volume control logic for controlling the audio volume of audio output from said built-in speaker;

a storage unit for storing, in relational fashion, hypothetical computer apparatus usage situations corresponding to different places of use for the computer apparatus, and audio volumes corresponding to those usage situations; and

a recognizing logic for recognizing the actual usage situation of the computer apparatus, wherein said audio volume control logic selects, on the basis of the actual usage situation recognized by said recognizing logic, an audio volume suitable for that usage situation from said storage unit and sets that selected audio volume as the audio volume of the audio output from said built-in speaker.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein:

said computer apparatus uses a battery built into said computer apparatus or an external AC power supply as a power supply source;

said storage unit performs, in a relational fashion, storage of muting as the suitable audio volume when the power supply source of the computer apparatus is said battery;

when said recognizing logic recognizes said battery as said power supply source, said audio volume control logic mutes the audio volume of the audio output from said built-in speaker.

9 (original) The apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising an indicator whereby, when said audio volume control logic mutes the audio volume, the fact that the audio volume is being muted is indicated visually.

10. (currently amended) An audio apparatus, comprising:

a muting logic for muting the audio volume of output audio ~~volume~~ and changing a set value of the muted audio volume to a changed value during muting; and

a mute canceling logic for canceling muting after the set value of the muted audio volume is changed to the changed value during muting by said muting logic, wherein upon cancellation of the muting, the audio is output at the audio volume having the changed value.

11. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said mute canceling logic comprises:

a first mute canceling logic for canceling muting after the set value of the muted audio volume has been increased; and

a second mute canceling logic for canceling muting after the set value of the muted audio volume has been decreased.

12. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising a third mute canceling logic for canceling muting without changing the set value of the muted audio volume.

13. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 10, comprising an audio volume indicator for visually indicating the set value of the muting audio volume.

14. (currently amended) A computer apparatus, comprising:

a built-in speaker incorporated into the computer apparatus; and

an audio volume control logic for controlling the audio volume of audio output from said built-in speaker;

wherein said audio volume control logic comprises a function whereby, when said output audio volume is being muted, said output audio volume is changed to a changed volume during muting and before muting is canceled, and muting is canceled later, such that the audio is output at the changed volume upon the cancellation of the muting.

15. (new) The audio apparatus of claim 1 wherein hypothetical external connection situations and audio volumes corresponding to those external connection situations are stored in relational fashion by the audio apparatus, wherein said hypothetical external connection situations and the actual external connection situation are compared when the audio apparatus is used, and the stored audio volume corresponding to the hypothetical external connection situation that matches the actual external connection situation is selected and used as the audio volume for audio output from that audio apparatus.

16. (new) The audio apparatus of claim 10 wherein the changed value is changed from the set value to an extent controlled by a user.

17. (new) The audio apparatus of claim 10 wherein said muting logic is included in audio volume logic that recognizes an external connection situation of the audio apparatus and changes the audio volume of audio output to a user by said audio apparatus, and wherein said muting logic mutes the audio volume of the output audio if such muting is in accordance with the recognized external connection situation.

18. (new) The audio apparatus of claim 17 wherein at least two different external connection situations are associated with different audio volumes of audio output to the user, wherein one of said two different external connection situations is in accordance with said muting.

19. (new) The audio apparatus of claim 10 wherein hypothetical external connection situations and audio volumes corresponding to those external connection situations are stored in relational fashion by the audio apparatus, wherein said hypothetical external connection situations and the actual external connection situation are compared when the audio apparatus is used, and the stored audio volume corresponding to the hypothetical external connection situation that matches the actual external connection situation is selected and used as the audio volume for audio output from that audio apparatus.

20. (new) The computer apparatus of claim 14 wherein said audio volume control logic recognizes an external connection situation of the audio apparatus by comparing the external connection situation to a plurality of stored hypothetical connection situations, and changes the audio volume of audio output to a user by said audio apparatus in accordance with the recognized external connection situation, said audio volume logic muting the audio volume of the output audio if such muting is in accordance with the recognized external connection situation.